

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER**  
**APRIL, 2007**

*Below, please find a compilation of reports from each Town Department*

**ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis**

The FY2007 abatements are finally done. We had 104 abatement applications of which 46 were approved. The grand total of abatements granted was \$38,879.31.

We had three times the normal amount of abatements due to changes in market conditions, a recent re-certification of values, and a zoning glitch that has been corrected.

Of the 46 that were approved, eight abatements were granted to one developer because the building lots became unbuildable due to a Board of Health extension of a drilling and blasting ban. The ban was extended due to concerns over the possible spread of a waste leak on Kempton Road in Millville. A dozen other abatements were granted to one developer because of a double billing. The other 26 abatements were granted after extensive analysis.

The month ended with this office still waiting for our new GIS maps for FY2007. The hold-up is the creation of a new data transfer program which has not been ironed out by our GIS provider and the state CAMA system computer experts. Our GIS web-site will be updated soon using the old transfer program which still works but will no longer be supported by the GIS provider. The updated GIS will contain some new features which I will explain once I'm sure they got included with the update.

Staff has already begun work on gathering data for new growth for FY2008. This is a long and cumbersome project that involves all three staff members. I do the bulk of the field work involving data collection for real estate. Barbara Harris specializes in lot splits, lot creation, mapping updates, condominiums and data corrections. Jennifer Hyland specializes in ownership changes, data quality control, and input of data from the field regarding new construction, additions or alterations. The ladies do this in addition to their other duties which include data verification for lenders, buyers, sellers, brokers, attorneys and others, dealing with automobile excise tax abatements, and the many requests for abutter lists.

We also bring in staff from RRC Corp. to handle personal property accounts. An agreement was just inked with that company subject to the manager's approval. RRC gets personal property done quicker, faster and cheaper than we can do internally because of their specialized expertise and software. The new growth generated outpaces the cost with \$8 back for every dollar invested. It also frees me up to chase after the 90 building permits that were started in FY2006, but not finished. In addition to these re-checks, I have 150 new building permits that have not been seen yet. The office has only been able to process 70 permits since January.

I will be spending much of the next three months out in the field doing data collection, analyzing the market conditions, and doing quality control checks on existing real estate data. I will also continue with a photographic inventory of all real estate.

**BOARD OF HEALTH: Submitted by Susan Smith**

The following is a summary of Board of Health activities from April 1, 2007 through April 30, 2007. The Board of Health office was closed April 16<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Food inspections – 3

Food re-inspections – 2

The Board of Health office completed the following by e-mail, phone and walk-in:

Calls for service – 246

Request for copies – 12

Complaints investigated - 10

Animal complaints – 3

Phone calls – 143

Walk-ins – 93

### **Training, Conferences, Seminars**

- April 4, Avian Flu Seminar, UMass – Sue Smith and Cay Den Herder.
- April 4, Cay Den Herder also attended the People First interagency meeting.
- During the week of April 9 through 13, Sue Smith took three emergency calls. Two calls were for potentially rabid animals the third call was an environmental concern.
- Sue also researched and dealt with a resident on a private well water quality concern.
- Tim Rice renewed his Certified Pool Operator and Certified Pool Inspectors licenses.
- Tim worked with the firm who is removing the paint, abrasive blasting, at Stanley Woolen Mills to ascertain that it is completed within state/local guidelines.

**Meetings held:** 1, April 19th.

### Relevant actions:

4/19/2007 – 2 variances were granted for a septic repair at 671 Hartford Avenue West.

The Board continues their work in emergency preparedness.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro**

There were three district meetings in April. The Bridgewater State college meeting was on Social Clubs & Fire dangers. There was a joint session for building inspectors and fire officials. The meeting that was held in Worcester was about the new 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the state building code which is now in use. This new 7<sup>th</sup> edition is for one & two family use only. On Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>, there were two accidents which a car hit houses in the middle of the night which I was called to investigate. There are continuing discussions about the revitalization of Stanley Woolen Mill.

April 2007 the number of permits issued and the fee collected is as follows:

Building Permits	45	Fee's Collected	\$13,892.00
Electric Permits	26	Fee's Collected	\$ 8,310.00
Plumbing Permits	17	Fee's Collected	\$ 8,752.00
Gas Permits	10	Fee's Collected	\$ 60.00
<b>Total Collected</b>			<b>\$31,004.00</b>

Following are the Building Permits that were issued during the month of April 2007.

5	Additions	2	Demo of barns
10	Condo - 19,065 sf	3	Roofs
5	Above ground pool	4	decks
2	Inground Pool	5	Foundations only
1	Signs	1	Commercial Steeple
1	Remodel Store (Hannafords)	3	Windows (replacement)
1	Tent (one day)	1	Basement (finish)
1	Siding (vinyl)		

4 of these were for Commercial

There were 0 Occupancy permits issued during April

### **CABLE ACCESS: Submitted by Barry Giles**

**Mobile Production Facility:** I have been researching the possibility of purchasing a mobile studio for PEG Access use over the past few years. After receiving information from a few companies dealing strictly with mobile production vehicles, I have decided to look into the cost of a production trailer. I am working the

Camera Company to design the trailer and get an estimate. I am hoping to present this during the Fall Town Meeting.

**High School Communication Class:** The High School Television Production class is wrapping up their school year. Students have been producing segments for the *Spartan News Network*. They have also been busy covering the end of the year events such as the Student/Faculty Basketball game, UHS Spring Concert and the Dodge Ball Tournament.

**Taft School International Fair:** I have been working with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade classes on their International Fair presentations. Each student was videotaped while presenting their project. The videos will be shown outside the classroom during the International Fair in May and will also be edited into a program for the Educational Channel.

**Volunteer Training:** We are finishing up our recent Adult Education Class in the beginning of May. I had four people that have completed training on the equipment available to them through PEG Access, which included studio production, portable equipment and editing. One student has approached me about producing a new show and others have shown great interest in helping with other productions.

I have also began an after school program for students in the Middle School and High School. I have been training three students from the Middle school on all aspects of television production. The students will use this training to start producing programming from the Middle School.

**Community Programming:** The production staff and a few volunteers have begun production on a new cooking show called *Watt's Cooking*. Ken Watt, Executive Chef at Johnson & Wales University, brings viewers into his kitchen to inform and entertain viewers on the joy of cooking.

New programs continue to come in from around the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts School of Law has a new program out titled *Books of Our Times*. We have also received a new program from Department of Child Welfare about their adoption program in Massachusetts called *Child & Family Today*.

Volunteers continue to cover local events in town such as the Blackstone Valley Community Band Concert, Senior Center events and other community sponsored events.

**Cable casting Problems:** Charter Communications installed new modulators in the beginning of April. The equipment was an upgrade to allow the signal to be compatible with the new fiber installation at the head end.

Unfortunately Charter ran into some problems during installation. New modulators have been ordered and Charter is working on the cable lines to improve the signal quality.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Submitted by Rachel Landry**  
**Permitting Activity**

The Commission received three new applications for work near or within wetlands:

Phillips, Paul and Florence - 30 School Street (Map 12B, Parcel 2962) – NOI – DEP# 312-865

Construction of a single family home and appurtenances. The proposed work is located within 200-foot Riverfront Area of Mumford River. The proposed work is located entirely within existing lawn area. The proposed house will replace an existing house. The Conservation Commission visited the site to better assess the potential impacts to the River. The work was deemed not likely to negatively impact the River. An Order of Conditions was issued for the project.

Hirtle, Susan and Dean - 71 Stanphyl Road (Map 32, Parcel 4728) – NOI – DEP# 312-867

Construction of an addition to an existing single family home. Portions of the proposed work are within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The proposed work is located entirely within lawn area and is greater than 50 feet from the edge of wetland. An Order of Conditions was issued for the project.

B&B Associates - 144 Paine Street (Map 37, Parcels 2161 & 2182) – NOI – DEP# 312-866

Construction of a subdivision roadway (Wanda Way). Portions of the proposed work are within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The project as proposed will result in the creation of three lots served by a single cul-de-sac- roadway. The Commission was concerned with the configuration of the proposed lots. The configuration would create lots significantly constrained by wetland, necessitating construction of houses unacceptably close to a unique shrub wetland area that provides critical habitat for rare, threatened and endangered wildlife species. The Commission requested that alternate plans be presented which would allow for construction of homes outside of 100-foot buffer zone of wetland. Various possible reconfigurations were discussed with the applicant's representative. The hearings were continued into May.

The Commission received one Request for Extension of an Existing Order of Conditions:

Northwind Partners -Douglas Street (Taft Hill) (Map 23, Parcels 3765, 4435) - DEP# 312-751

Northwind Partners requested an extension of their existing Order of Conditions, which expired on March 31, 2007. It was deemed by the Commission that the request was made in a timely manner (formal written request was received prior to the expiration date), and that all issues with the project had been addressed satisfactorily under recent deliberations. A 3-year extension was granted for the project.

Two violations were discussed:

Thomas, Gary and Kelly - 190 Cross Street (Map 17, Parcel 4822) – Viol. #0107

Unpermitted construction of a pier within Land Under Water, Inland Bank, and 200-foot Riverfront Area of Cold Spring Brook. Deliberations were continued from March. The Commission indicated that a Notice of Intent filing for the work would be considered. It was explained to Mr. Thomas that the work within wetland resource area required the filing of a Notice of Intent per the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and implementing regulations. Mr. Thomas was given the option to either file for the existing pier, or remove the pier. The Commission anticipates a response from Mr. Thomas regarding his intentions no later than Friday, May 18, 2007.

Fafard Development, Inc. - Crownshield Avenue – DEP# 312-55

Detention basin failure resulting in siltation to a brook trout stream. Failure of a recently constructed detention basin located in the upper portion of Crownshield Avenue, located in the Ledgemere Country development, resulted in severe siltation to a coldwater fishery supporting brook trout. This project has a history of similar violations and enforcement action on the part of both the Conservation Commission and DEP. Failure of the detention basin consisted of a breakout within a portion of the detention basin embankment. This breakout released silt laden water from the basin into the stream. Site visits were conducted by the Conservation Commission and by DEP. This project is largely under the jurisdiction of DEP as a Superceding Order was issued on the project by DEP when the Commission originally denied the project. Enforcement and fining by DEP is underway. The Commission is coordinating with DEP as well as the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that meaningful mitigation for the release is achieved. The Commission also noted similar issues with a detention basin located within a separate project (DEP File #312-696) also located within Fafard Country. Fafard Development was notified that enforcement activity was pending to compel the applicant to come into compliance with previously approved plans. Deliberations are continued into May.

Deliberations concluded on:

Phillips, Paul and Florence - 30 School Street (Map 12B, Parcel 2962) – NOI – DEP# 312-865

(see above for further information on this project)

Hirtle, Susan and Dean - 71 Stanphyl Road (Map 32, Parcel 4728) – NOI – DEP# 312-867  
(see above for further information on this project)

Deliberations continued into May:

Uxbridge Associates, LLC - 325 Mendon Road WAUCANTUCK (Map 20, Parcel 1749)

Construction of 145 condominium units, associated grading, utilities, parking and stormwater management structures. Portions of the proposed work are within 200-foot Riverfront Area of West River, 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland, 100-foot buffer zone of Inland Bank, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Upon reviewing case evidence pertaining to historic mill exemptions for work in Riverfront Area, the Commission has voted that the proposed work is not subject to the Rivers Protection Act. Deliberations continue on multiple aspects of the project. The Commission requested that pretreatment be provided for stormwater flow on the north site of the project. Previously, proposed treatment was limited to sheet flow over wooded area. It was determined by the Commission that the slope, extent, and permeability of the proposed receiving area was likely insufficient to result in meaningful treatment of the expected volume of runoff from proposed paved area. The Commission requested that stormceptors be utilized in key runoff collection points as an alternative to sheet flow treatment. The Commission expressed concern over the proximity of structures to water edge, proposed in the north site. Alternative plans for this area were requested which provide a minimum of 50 feet of separation between structures and water edge in those areas not slated for hazardous waste cleanup.

B&B Associates - 144 Paine Street (Map 37, Parcels 2161 & 2182) – NOI – DEP# 312-866  
(see above for further information on this project)

### **Open Space Management**

The Pout Pond Subcommittee continued work on the Land Use and Management plan. The Subcommittee also met with Nancy Lyle, who has been instrumental in restoring the active recreation swim facility located at the Conservation Land.

Quotes are being solicited for landscaping in the picnic area. This area has been degraded by unauthorized ATV and dirtbike trespass, and is now in need of loam and seed to restore and stop erosion of the hillside. Any information on motorized vehicle trespass on the Town's Conservation Lands is greatly appreciated. Please also immediately contact the Uxbridge Police Department to report ongoing incidences of such trespass.

Ms. Landry has been assisting Ms. Nancy Lyle, who is heading up volunteer efforts critical in continuing use of a portion of Pout Pond as a swim facility. Ms. Lyle is working to renovate the existing beach house. A new roof for the structure is in the works.

Nancy headed up the annual Pout Pond Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Many volunteers helped out with litter collection, general cleaning and painting of the beach house, raking of the beach area and other such work. The Commission is grateful for the hard work of Ms. Lyle and all the volunteers who pitched in to keep Pout Pond beautiful. The Commission is also grateful for DPW's assistance in removal of the collected litter. Thank you to all who assist us in maintaining the conservation lands.

The acceptance by the Conservation Commission of a gift of land by Mr. John Audet has been completed. The gifted land adds approximately 25 acres of forested land (primarily floodplain wetland, interspersed with pockets of upland) to the existing Legg Farm Conservation Area. The land abuts the Blackstone River and contains vernal pools, archaeological sites, and floodplain forests. The land may be developed in the future with a rudimentary trail system (maintained by foot traffic and periodic pruning of branches) appropriate for hiking and other passive recreational uses. Many opportunities exist in this area for environmental education.

### **Other**

National Grid - Proposed Roadside Tree Cutting

Representatives from National Grid explained the ACT Reliability Project to the Commissioners. The project in Uxbridge entails selective cutting of trees interfering or potentially interfering with electric utilities. Cutting is proposed along portions of Mendon Road and Quaker Highway. Some tree cutting will occur in wetland area. It was explained that only trees posing hazards to the utility lines will be removed. The Conservation Commission requested that Ms. Landry accompany the lead arborist for the project on an inspection of the proposed cutting areas so that the Commission can be properly informed of the location and extent of cutting activities so that future calls from the public can be accurately addressed. It was noted by the representative and confirmed by the Commission that work in wetlands necessary to maintain public utilities is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act.

### **COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo**

#### **Did you know?**

Your Senior Center works with elders in a myriad of ways. Helping citizens navigate the changes in their prescription coverage is one example of how Senior Centers play an integral role in the lives of elders. Earlier this winter we helped seniors review their eligibility for Medicare Part D and Prescription Advantage. As in previous years, there was no financial assistance allocated to local municipalities to provide additional hours of outreach to assist with this service. Because of the complex nature of the Part D and Prescription Advantage insurance plans, most of our assistance was provided on an individual basis. This assistance often necessitated multiple appointments. Every time we helped an elder, we had to stop doing something else. But we did it because it was an extraordinary need for our constituents. An informal study by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs showed that most seniors, by far, got their information about these medical programs from either a family member or their local Senior Center. Still, our efforts are far from complete. We still need to reach many of our seniors who remain unaware of the benefits of the new programs. Some seniors may have signed up for one program only to find out that one of the other 23 plans would have been a better choice given their individual circumstances. We recognize that our work is cut out for us over the next several years as this benefit continues to evolve and the boomers become eligible. We are proud that we have helped so many on the local level and we are proud that we have helped to save the Commonwealth over \$30 million for prescription services – the savings Massachusetts has realized within the Prescription Advantage program, line item #9110-1455.

It was our hope, at this writing, that the State FY 08 Budget would have found a way to increase the local aid for the Formula Grant from \$6.30 an elder to \$7 per elder. Unfortunately, increased funding was not obtained in the House (Line Item #9110-9002.). The Senior Center director contacted Senator Moore's office to request increased funding over the House budget. The Senate will be taking up the budget at the end of May.

As an update, last year we received \$9,022 in funding from the State Formula Grant. We use this grant to fund our medical escort driver service which allows us to transport approximately 60 Uxbridge elders per month to and from medical appointments throughout the Blackstone Valley, and, when needed, to Framingham, Boston and Providence, RI. Our Formula Grant is currently at \$0 balance. We sustain the medical escort driver service through our donations. Transportation is one of our most important services, here at the Senior Center. It would be a shame to lose this service since it is, in many ways, self sustaining. Your advocacy efforts are needed as we strive to envision our future.

#### **Special Thanks**

We are grateful to Dan Stefanilo, School Superintendent, for his help to ensure twenty senior citizens access to the Education Foundation's Gala Ball held at Pleasant Valley again this year. We extend our sincere thanks to the anonymous donors for their generosity and continued support of our schools and the senior citizens of Uxbridge. We are proud to support fund raising events that help stimulate innovation and excellence. We thank you for your interest in the senior citizens of Uxbridge and for your effort to include us in this year's Gala. We wish the Uxbridge Education Foundation continued success and look forward to next year's event!

Our gratitude is great for Hannaford's ongoing support of our Senior Center. Tri Valley Inc., the Council on Aging Board, the Senior Center Director and staff want to take time to personally thank Deb Jodrey, Vivian

Mulligan and Nancy Harper for their recent volunteerism at our lunch program. Ordinary people living ordinary lives often are our heroes. Thank you for taking time out of your very busy lives to help support our seniors. You make our community a better place!

As always, thank you Chief Albin for your support of our Senior Center Events. We appreciate your special photography talents as well as your willingness to video tape our luncheon programs for cable access at such short notice. You help us to preserve our memories! Your videos allow us to share our programs with homebound seniors who are unable to come to our Senior Center and keep them connected. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do for us and for our community at large.

A very BIG thank you to Amanda and Adam Wright and Jackson Wright for your fine singing voices at our Easter luncheon. You livened up our day and we are forever grateful for your gift of song. Thanks, too, to your moms for all that they do for our Center. Children are the best medicine!

We are indebted to the dedicated students of the UHS National Honor Society for the delicious baked goods they provided for our seniors at our Easter luncheon. Everyone went home well fed in body and spirit!

Our thanks go out to our Tri Valley Inc., citizen volunteers for their tireless dedication to our meals on wheels program. Last month we celebrated National Volunteer Week and paid special tribute to our volunteers. At this time we extend our sincere appreciation for the priceless gift of your time and talent. We are honored to count you as our Tri-Valley volunteers!

#### Outreach Report

Our Outreach Coordinator works 15 hours each week and is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Office Visits	15	Home Visits	2
Nursing Home Visits	3	Wakes & Funerals	6
SMOC Recerts & New Applications	9	Telephone calls in & out	75
Medical Appointment	3	Wellness Checks	3
SHINE / Office Visits	15	SHINE Meeting	1

#### Monthly Statistical Data

The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs for the month of April, 2007:

Van Transportation	320	Medical Transportation	58
Tai Chi	29	Card Games/Pitch	126
Meals on Wheels Delivered	1,682	Weekend meals delivered	40
Congregate Meals Served	524	<b>Total Meals Served</b>	<b>2246</b>
Cash Turnovers	\$909.00	Phone calls in & out	834
Guestbook	621+	Wal-Mart	15

Cards sent to elders	50+	Free Tax Appointments & Info	14
Line Dancing	35	Hannaford	49
Lunch attendance	151+	CVS	19
Bank	10	Cardio & Yoga (New programs)	75
Computer Classes	12	Senior Club attendance	86
VNA Vital signs	10	Easter Party (4/5) & Fashion Show (4/30)	109
		Lunch & Learn Evercare (4/2)	20
Dr. Biancamano (4/23)	4	Lunch & Learn / Joe Kaplan Absentee Ballots on (4/4)	21
Podiatry Clinic		Uxbridge Future's Committee (4/25)	14

### **DPW: Submitted by Larry Bombara**

#### **WATER**

1. Tata and Howard water engineers are continuing the water audit and conservation plan with an anticipated completion date of mid summer
2. Localized chlorination of the Quarry hill area will begin in May to help temporarily reduce odor complaints until permanent techniques are finalized.
3. Water quality reports are available to all citizens and will be mailed in the quarterly water bill.

#### **WASTEWATER**

1. Lime silo construction work will begin in May
2. The division has purchased a bush hog attachment for the multi purpose Trackless machine that will reduce subcontracting ROW clearing costs and allow routine scheduled maintenance to be completed in a timely fashion.

#### **HIGHWAY**

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> canal over the Mumford River on Hartford Ave East in the vicinity of the Crown and Eagle apts has begun to collapse and the MHD bridge inspection team will evaluate and assist with decisions regarding replacement.
2. Town wide winter cleanup continues with the assistance of the Faith Fellowship Church members assisting with litter control and stenciling catch basins in the North Uxbridge areas as part of our Storm Water Management program.

#### **OTHER**

The Department has joined forces with the Blackstone River Coalition in promoting "In Business for the Blackstone". The focus is on education of small to mid size companies in the watershed on the detriments of polluted storm water and encourages the adoption of good house keeping practices that can reduce the risk of contaminants in their runoff. Please check out their web site at [www.zaptheblackstone.org](http://www.zaptheblackstone.org) for further details.

The Town surplus equipment auction took place on April 28 netting an income of \$958 for the general fund of the Town.



The Department extends a sincere thank you to the Quarry Hill Excavating Company for donating our equipment transfer to and from the annual Construction Career Days held in Hopkinton MA educating over 1800 high school students in the construction industry.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Peter Ostroskey**

I am pleased to submit the following activity report for the Fire Department:

**INCIDENT REPORT:** The Department responded to 138 emergency incidents including 13 fire/explosion incidents, 1 overpressure/rupture, 91 rescue/medical emergencies, 5 hazardous conditions, 8 service calls, 10 good intent calls, 6 false alarms and 4 special type/complaint responses. We provided mutual aid to neighboring communities 7 times and received mutual aid on 6 occasions. Our personnel operated at significant incidents including:

- April 6: A serious motor vehicle accident on Quaker Highway requiring extrication of one patient and treatment and transport of 5 including one transported to the trauma center via helicopter;
- April 9: A serious motor vehicle accident on Aldrich St. between Glendale and Gary Lane requiring extrication of one patient, treatment and transport of 5 including one by helicopter;
- April 16: Numerous calls for assistance due to severe rain/wind event including flooded basements and a broken fire alarm wire serving South Uxbridge;
- April 20: A serious motor vehicle accident at 55 North Main Street involving a vehicle roll-over into an occupied residence;
- April 20: a serious motor vehicle accident with a vehicle on fire at 460 West Street;
- April 21: A motor vehicle into an occupied residence at 93 Richardson Street;
- April 23: Mutual aid to the Town of Grafton for a large brush fire off Potter Hill Road;
- April 25: Mutual aid to the Town of Mendon for a barn fire on Pleasant Street requiring water supply and decontamination of firefighters exposed to materials in the fire;
- April 25: One person suffered minor injuries and a home was damaged at 11A Sayles St. through use of illegal fireworks. Through the cooperative effort of Uxbridge Fire and Police and the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal's Fire Investigation Unit charges have been filed and additional explosive materials were secured;
- April 26: Mutual Aid to East Brookfield to assist with decontamination of victims exposed to tainted water in Spencer.

The ambulance service evaluated 97 patients, provided care and transported 80 to area hospitals. The transports were to Milford Regional Medical Center (76), U-Mass – University Campus (3), and St. Vincent's Hospital (1). Advanced life support service support from other agencies was involved on 41 occasions.

**FIRE PREVENTION:** Permits and inspections completed over the past month include 14 smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections were completed, and permits issued for home heating oil storage (4), install fire alarm system (1), permit to install unvented space heater (1) and open air burning (566).

Two facility inspections were completed and one permit for live entertainment was issued.

**TRAINING:** Personnel received training and participated in drills on emergency vehicle operation. One member completed advanced incident command training at ICS-300 and one completed ICS 400. All emergency medical technicians received training on documentation of EMS calls and reviewed protocols through a four hour program provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Service. Each active EMT was provided a current copy of the statewide protocols and revised Uxbridge Fire Department Policies and Procedures.

**GENERAL:** On April 17 Rescue 1 was involved in a motor vehicle accident while transporting a patient to Milford Hospital. The accident occurred in Hopedale and thanks to the evasive action taken by Firefighter/EMT

Jason Bangma there were no serious injuries and damage to the ambulance was moderate. The patient being transported was transported by Hopedale ambulance and was resting comfortably at the emergency room after the incident.

On April 26 a major milestone for the ambulance service was realized. The Massachusetts DPH - Office of Emergency Medical Services approved our license upgrade to the Intermediate level of care. This allows EMTs with advanced training to perform techniques and use skills to start intravenous lines and perform advanced airway management including intubation for critical patients. This is a significant advance toward full advanced life support level care and was made possible by the cooperation of many people working to meet the requirements. A major contribution through the donation of funds made in memory of Lester and Virginia Taft allowed training to this level for our EMTs and will translate into lives saved for a long time to come.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas**

The following is a list of activity for the Uxbridge Police Department for April, 2007:

During this time dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 1091 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS. That is 128 more calls than April of last year. In the first 4 months of this year we have surpassed the 2006 totals to date by 10.1%. 10.6% of April's calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 89.4% were strictly police related.

129 Motor vehicle citations were issued that included 161 separate violations.

22 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated with 16 injuries out of 54 occupants. This is 2 collisions less than March of 2007 and for the year 2007 compared to 2006 collisions are up 24%. The department will continue to redeploying some of our enforcement activities when available to attempt to reduce the numbers. An interesting note has come to light in the first quarter of 2007 regarding younger drivers; In the first quarter of 2007 approximately 30 percent of the drivers in collisions were age 21 or under. That number is not larger than the other two age group dynamic in 2007, but is higher percentage wise when compared to 2006. In 2006 only 13% of operators were under 21. That is not an overall condemnation of the driving skills of people 21 and under because increased numbers of young drivers and other factors will all impact the statistic. However it does pose a question that needs further evaluation based on data compiled during this remainder of this year. Regardless of age, all operators of motor vehicles need to buckle up, obey the speed limit, and drive courteously.

40 arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made this month. Two were for domestic violence situations. Four were for Drunk Driving. As opposed to last month, Sunday was the day in which the most arrests occurred, with Saturday being a close second. The majority of arrests were of people age 34 to 54. Persons age 25-34 came in a distant second. There were 3 arrests for persons age 11-17. Overall, there were 8 more arrests than last April. Overall this year arrests are up 14% over last year. The department once again investigated some serious incidents this past month including a serious case involving explosive devices.

As stated before, relative to road construction, some traffic patterns will once again become a difficult issue and the traffic patterns are apt to change quickly due to the needs of new projects on a daily basis. Some of these projects have begun.

**Training:** Officer Paul Stuczynski and Sergeant Peter Emerick attended a seminar on Laws and procedure relative to School incidents. This was also attended by school personnel. Dispatcher Joe Lefebvre attended prevention of suicide in the municipal cell block training. Sergeant Timothy Burke attended additional training as he is developing a department emergency driving training program. Numerous training sessions will be attended during the upcoming months by many officers.

**Emergency Management:** Sgt. Emerick has continued his hard work relative to Emergency Management planning and NIMS compliance training. More planning and training is scheduled in future months including

work with the school department on emergency response. Upgrades are still underway for the town's radio antennae system which should be completed in early spring.

**Grants:** We anticipate an award letter from the state for their portion of the bullet resistant vest reimbursement program soon. This is for replacement vests for our police officers. A new round of applications have been sent for our newer officers.

**Animal Control:** The dog officer responded to at least 29 complaints in the month of April. A meeting of area resident was held in March relative to animal safety that was well attended by resident of the Pond St. area.

**Events:** The Citizen's Police Academy began the end of March with 18 people attending. The class continues throughout April. The class runs through May 9, 2007.

I wish to thank you and the Board of Selectmen for your support as police chief and look forward to working with you in the upcoming months.

**TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Joseph Kaplan**

**TOWN MEETING of January 9, 2007**

As previously reported, Article 2 was approved by the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office informed us this month that they approved Article 1.

**PREPARATION FOR TOWN ELECTION of May 22, 2007**

- We have made poll worker assignments for the positions of wardens, clerks, and inspectors. While we are approximating the full capacity of poll workers, I am actively seeking more to serve as floaters and back-ups. I have conducted extensive outreach to Uxbridge High School to recruit students who will be working as inspectors as part of their community service graduation requirements. Poll worker training will be taking place on the evening of May 16
- All statutory requirements are being met in regards to registration, postings, testing of ballots, and all other election rules and regulations.
- Signatures on nomination papers were certified. All candidates who submitted nomination papers met the minimum requirement of signatures for their names to be placed on the ballot.
- Each candidate received a kit which includes voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, a calendar of events, and other useful information.
- A representative from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance came to Town Hall, at my invitation, to meet with candidates about campaign finance reporting requirements.
- I had a meeting with other department heads to discuss what assistance my office needs in regards to Election Day and Election Day preparation.

**VITAL RECORDS**

In the month of April we have recorded with the Secretary of State:

- 19 Birth Certificates
- 7 Marriage Licenses
- 8 Death Certificates

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month a state report is required recording the number of births, marriages, and deaths that have been processed by the Town Clerk's Office.

We issued:

- 62 certified copies of birth
- 32 certified copies of marriage
- 39 certified copies of death

All birth, marriage, and death certificates are indexed on a monthly basis.

#### REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES/LICENSES ISSUED

- 9 Business Certificate applications processed
- 6 couples filed new marriage intentions
- 98 Dog Licenses
- 2 Kennel Licenses
- 1 Raffle Permit
- 4 Fuel Storage

#### OTHER ITEMS ISSUES

- 1 Street Listing book sold
- 21 Notarizations performed

#### TURNOVERS

Our office handles the dog licenses as well as processing the money collected for the licenses, late fees and fines by the Animal Control.

Total amount of funds turned over to the Treasurer/Collector's office for the month of April was \$3043.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION

We processed 70 voter registration forms this month. These multi-purpose forms are used to register to vote, to notify us of a change of name, change of address within town, or to change party affiliation. We also deleted 20 voter registration records due to deaths or voters moving out of Uxbridge.

#### PUBLIC OUTREACH

I am continuing outreach to the Uxbridge High School and the Blackstone Valley Regional School for poll worker recruitment and obtain students who wish to donate their community service hours toward Election Day, Election Day preparation, and general tasks that need to be completed in the office.

I was the guest speaker at this month's Council on Aging Senior Center's Lunch 'n Learn to discuss absentee ballot voting. This event was taped for cable television.

The Library has accepted voter registration forms and Election Calendars for public display and distribution.

Press releases were issued regarding candidates who will appear on the election ballot, voter registration deadlines, and the availability of absentee ballots for the municipal election.

#### OFFICE RECORDKEEPING

The Town Clerk's Office is the archival repository for the town. Our office is responsible for all 20 day appeals on ZBA decisions, filing Planning Board documents (i.e. Form A), all town board and committee minutes, and processing and postings of meetings and agendas for public viewing. Individuals may request copies of meeting minutes, agendas, and postings through our office.

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Research, which entails 20 – 25 hours per month
- Genealogy
- Swearing in of committee members, new police officers, and public officials

#### STAFF

We wish to thank Elizabeth Pasichny who worked with us for a few weeks and has left to pursue other opportunities.

We welcome Ellen Mayo who will be working with us through the end of June, primarily to finish work on the 2007 Annual Town Census.

#### BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Cecilia Boatman was reappointed to a 3-year term. She was recently sworn in and we look forward to working with her in the years to come.

The Registrars were in the office on Wednesday, May 2 from 4pm to 8pm to assist with the last day of voter registration for the Town Election (being held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>). The office was open until 8pm to meet statutory requirements for the voter registration deadline.

#### TOWN PLANNER: Submitted by Floyd Forman

Spoke with or met with numerous members of the public concerning questions on planning and zoning issues. Spent time with the following projects before the Planning Board.

#### Town Meeting Matters

- At its 4/11/07 meeting, the Planning Board held a Public Hearing on a Zoning Article for the Spring Town Meeting Warrant concerning a possible associate member for Planning Board. The associate member would sit in on special permits only, and vote only if one of the regular members was not able to vote. The Planning Board supported the article unanimously.

#### Planning Board

- Attended 2 Planning Board Meetings
- Worked with new Planning Board Chairman and new Planning Board member going thru projects and explaining projects and issues in detail including MGL concerning subdivisions and special permits (zoning).
- West River Estates Phase V. Wrote draft decision for 5 lot subdivision project.
- Waucantuck Mill: Proposed redevelopment of old mill buildings involving cleanup of a brownfield site located along Mendon St. adjacent to West River Rd. and Henry St. The project needs a Special Permit from the Planning Board. Earlier, a number of department heads and staff from the Army Corps of Engineers met with the project proponent. Some of the other issues include the structural soundness of the dam, architectural review of the project and recreational issues. Worked with the applicant, applicant's lawyer, engineer, town's consultant, DPW Deputy Superintendent, and Conservation Agent in an effort to move the project along. This project involved multiple staff level meetings to resolve outstanding issues. **UPDATE Even at the last minute Cheryl and I worked with the applicant's representatives to resolve problems and mistakes so that this project could move forward. On April 11, the Planning Board issued a Special Permit for the Waucantuck Mill with 16 conditions attached.**
- Continued to work on the Meadow Valley Estates Definitive Subdivision Plan. This is a small subdivision at the Chockalog Rd. /Schnorr Sand Pit. The main concern has been the lack of adequate sight distance. Board voted to approve project. **UPDATE The applicant is refiling the plan as it was found prior to signing the plan that the applicant had moved the roadway into another parcel for which abutters had not been noticed and is cooperating with the Town to remedy the matter.**

#### Other Matters

- Met with the Finance Committee to discuss zoning article on the Town Meeting Warrant to allow for an associate Planning Board member and to discuss Planning Board budget.
- Continued to work on the Four Town project in the Lackey Dam area along Route 146.
- Spent a significant amount of time with the Zoning Board of Appeals on the Summerfield project, working with the applicant and our engineering firm as well as drafting potential conditions of approval for a draft decision on the applicant's request for a Special Permit under the article passed at the January Special Town Meeting. Also worked with ZBA on another Special Permit matter before it.

- Continued to spend some time on 43D streamlined permitting, including ideas for some of the Town's needs via possible grant. Responded to questions from the Town of Douglas on issues relating to 43D.
- Savers Bank: Continued to work with DPW Superintendent, Savers Bank and Town traffic consultants on traffic issues at the intersection of Routes 16 and 122. Further, raised issues with Bank president and the met with Bank's attorney and DPW Superintendent on the matter. Spoke with Bank's attorney on numerous occasions in an effort to get all parties in agreement. Later in the month the Planning Board took up the matter agreeing to signage issues and conveying to the bank that traffic light issues must also be completed promptly. **UPDATE After attempting for months to resolve the matter, the Planning Board sent a letter to Savers Bank setting time limits for resolution of all issues or it may move to reopen the Special Permit for lack of compliance with the Special Permit conditions.**
- Spent time on an affordable housing matter with the State concerning Liberty Estates.
- Mall: Continued to help resolve issues related to commercial development at Routes 16 and 146. This included continued discussion concerning the new streamline permitting law.